



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

**AUG 21 2007**



The Honorable Nicole M. Parra  
Assemblywoman  
601 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A  
Bakersfield, California 93301

OFFICIAL  
FILE COPY

Dear Ms. Parra:

Thank you for your letter of July 26, 2007, to Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (AS-IA) Carl Artman, regarding a group known as the Tejon Indian Tribe (Tejon, Petitioner #230). The Department of the Interior (Department) referred your letter to the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) for response.

OFA assists the Department in implementing the administrative process for acknowledging that a group continues to exist as an Indian tribe. This process is regulated under Part 83 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations (25 CFR Part 83), *Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe* (copy enclosed). On October 27, 2000, the Department received a letter of intent from the Tejon group seeking to be acknowledged as an Indian tribe under 25 CFR Part 83, and designated the group as Petitioner #230.

In September 2006, Petitioner #230 made a presentation to the AS-IA, stated that it did not fall under the scope of 25 CFR Part 83, and requested that it be “confirmed” as an Indian tribe, or alternatively be recognized as a “Half-blood” Indian community pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act. In effect, the group is requesting that the Department place it on the list of federally recognized Indian tribes without it being required to go through a regulatory process.

For the AS-IA, OFA is reviewing the group’s claims, arguments, copies of documentation, and letters such as yours. OFA and the Department’s Office of the Solicitor will be making their recommendations to the AS-IA for his consideration, soon. We appreciate your interest in Indian affairs and timely input.

Sincerely,

(sgd) R. Lee Fleming

Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

Enclosure

cc: Petitioner #230  
bcc: OFASurname;Chron;ES-IA;SOL;ES-CA(#361789);Hold  
IA-OFA:RLFleming:rlf/jkc:513-7650;8/17/07;SOL, SK8/17/edits:JCheek/rlf/jkc:8/20/07  
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Sincerely,

Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

Enclosure

cc: Petitioner #230

OFA

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**TASKING PROFILE**

**ACCN #:** 361789      **Status:** O      **Fiscal Year:** 2007

**Document Date**      **Received Date**      **Due Date**      **Action Office**      **Signature Level**      **Doc Source**  
08/01/2007      08/23/2007      BIA      DR      SL

**Addressee:** Carl Artman

**From:** Parra, Nicole  
Assemblywoman  
California Legislature  
State Capitol  
PO BOX 942349  
Sacramento  
CA 94249

**Subject Text:** Writing to urge the Bureau of Indian Affairs to confirm the federally recognized status of the  
Tejon Indian Tribe

**Required Surnames:** OEIA

**Mail Carrier:** PM      **Mail Track#:** Route to OFA

**Cross Reference:** 361790

**Copies To:** SIO-Exsec

**Status Tracking:**

**Correspondence Specialist:** CAllen      **Corresp. Specialist Phone:** 208-6540

**Closed Comments:**

**Signed:**



AUG 09 2007

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FAX (661) 334-3796

# Assembly California Legislature



NICOLE M. PARRA  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, THIRTIETH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
AGRICULTURE, CHAIR  
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE  
INSURANCE  
BANKING AND FINANCE

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July 26, 2007

Hon. Carl J. Artman  
Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
MS 4141 - MIB  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20240

RECEIVED  
2007 AUG -2 PM 2:26  
OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Dear Assistant Secretary Artman,

I am writing to urge the Bureau of Indian Affairs to confirm the federally recognized status of the Tejon Indian Tribe. The Tejon Indian Tribe and its history are well known in Kern County, in part because portions of Kern County comprise the Tribe's aboriginal area. It's understood that even though the Department has a long history of providing services to the Tribe and held land for the benefit of the Tribe through the early 1960's, the Tribe is not presently included on the list of federally recognized tribes. I fully support the confirmation of the Tribe's federal recognition, whether that is accomplished through correction of the list of federally recognized tribes or pursuant to the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act.

As you know, Ms. Kathryn Montes Morgan is the elected chairperson of the Tejon Indian Tribe. In meetings with tribal representatives, they have explained that federal confirmation would include placing land in Kern County into trust and declaring that land an Indian reservation. I understand that this initial parcel near Mettler, California would be used for residential purposes and that in the future the Tribe could seek to place additional land into trust for other purposes, including economic development. I support establishment of a reservation for the Tribe near Mettler and look forward to working with the Tribe on any additional trust acquisitions.

Please be assured that we know of no local opposition to confirmation of the Tribe's federal recognition and establishment of a reservation. The Tribe certainly deserves as much given its difficult history. I respectfully request that the Department expeditiously

confirm the Tribe's status either by correcting the list of federally recognized tribes to include the Tejon Tribe or by allowing the Tribe to organize pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Parra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nicole" and last name "Parra" clearly distinguishable.

NICOLE M. PARRA  
Member of the Assembly  
30<sup>th</sup> District

Cc: Kathryn Montes Morgan, Chairperson, Tejon Indian Tribe